

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON**  
**HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS**  
*Chairman Bernie Sanders*



**Organizational Endorsements**  
*Child Care Stabilization Act*  
September 13, 2023

The *Child Care Stabilization Act* is endorsed by: National Women’s Law Center (NWLC), Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), ZERO TO THREE, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Children’s Defense Fund, Save the Children, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), National Association for Family Child Care, Child Care for Every Family Network, Family Values at Work, Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy, MomsRising/MamasConPoder, Oxfam America, All Our Kin, Community Change Action, Prevent Child Abuse America, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, Small Business Majority, First Focus Campaign for Children, Parents Together Action, Prevent Child Abuse America, United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN), YWCA-USA.

“The Child Care Stabilization Act is the lifeline that our child care programs need,” said **Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO of the National Women’s Law Center**. “Without the emergency funding in this bill, millions of families will be left either without child care or forced to pay even more for these services, which will wreak havoc on our families, communities, and the economy overall. I want to thank Senators Murray and Sanders, as well as Representatives DeLauro and Scott, for their efforts to stabilize our child care system, and I urge all members of Congress to do right by families and pass this bill into law without delay.”

“The entire country depends on child care. The clock is ticking. Congress must act before stabilization grants expire on September 30,” said **Lorella Praeli, Co-President at Community Change Action**. “The situation will worsen when another round of ARPA funds for child care expire in 2024. If Congress doesn’t act now, child care slots will disappear, child care providers and parents will be at risk for losing their jobs, and there will be more instability in every facet of our lives. As always women, especially women of color, and our kids will be hit the hardest. Our families, youngest kids, and the childcare workforce need a lifeboat. These grants saved nearly 10 million child care slots and protected more than 1 million child care jobs. The choice to pass the Childcare Stabilization Act should be easy.”

“The initial childcare stabilization funds were a lifeline for entrepreneurs working to keep their doors open during the pandemic,” said **John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO, Small Business Majority**. “These funds proved critical for small business childcare providers, as well as small employers struggling to maintain their workforce. Allowing these childcare investments to expire will disrupt the entire small business community, disproportionately impacting under-resourced and rural small businesses. We proudly support the Child Care Stabilization Act, which will allocate the funding needed to stave off the looming childcare crisis while supporting working parents and small business owners alike.”

“Our nation’s child care system is on the verge of collapse and after years of underinvestment, and the stress of the pandemic, millions of working families will be left with few or no options for quality child care. This is not a situation where we can or should simply accept that fate,” said **AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler**. “Working people need solutions and lawmakers must come together immediately to take action and pass the Child Care Stabilization Act now.”

“SEIU members are proud to stand with Senator Murray and Senator Sanders who are listening to early childhood educators and families across the country,” **said SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry**. “The Child Care Stabilization Act can help our country avert the worst of disasters looming over working families by ensuring that children and those caring for them have the child care they need and can avoid disruptions to their lives. This bill also helps ensure childcare workers can continue to use their power to push states to raise standards for the workforce and quality of care.”

“We are grateful to Sens. Murray and Sanders and Rep. Clark and their colleagues for introducing the Child Care Stabilization Act, a bill that tackles head-on the challenges facing our nation’s child care system,” **said Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus Campaign for Children**. “This bill would provide a solid foundation for high-quality, affordable and accessible child care — the kind of system that supports children, families and child care professionals. The kind of system we all want — and know we can have, if Congress makes the good choices that support the best interests of children.”

“Investments in the child care sector during COVID led states to make critical improvements in child care affordability, access, and support to providers. But that progress is at risk unless Congress provides additional funding,” **said Indivar Dutta-Gupta, President and Executive Director at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)**. “Without added resources, we will further exacerbate long-standing inequities in the child care system and compromise positive improvements. We welcome the Child Care Stabilization Act as an essential solution that would prevent working families from losing access to care and allow states to continue building toward a system that really works for children, families, and providers—and the economy as a whole.”

“The Child Care Stabilization Act would help families across the country escape some of the most devastating impacts of the child care cliff and extend a lifeline to parents and providers,” **said Julie Kashen, Director of Women’s Economic Justice and Senior Fellow at the Century Foundation**. “We know how important it is for children and families, not to mention our economy, to have reliable, affordable child care in every community—and to pay the people who do that vital work a living wage because without them, there is no child care system. I am grateful for Senator Murray, Chairman Sanders, Leader Schumer, Representatives Clark and DeLauro for their leadership on this bill and their partnership in fighting for federal child care investments that our children and their families need to thrive.”

“The Child Care Stabilization Act is direly needed by families all over the country, to protect the child care of three million children and keep 70,000 child care providers open,” **said Nicole Jorwic, Chief of Campaigns and Advocacy at Caring Across Generations**. “We deserve to live in a country where children and caregivers have community, support, and fully funded solutions for all their care needs. Supporting the Child Care Stabilization Act and investing in a better child care system will help millions access the care they deserve, provide good child care jobs, contribute to family stability and financial security, and benefit the economy.”

“Early educators, including those caring for children in home-based settings, are facing a crippling loss of funding at the end of this month of September. The Child Care Stabilization Act would provide much-needed resources to prevent millions of families from losing access to child care and thousands of programs from being forced to close their doors,” **said Erica Phillips, Executive Director of the National Association for Family Child Care**. “The National Association for Family Child Care is grateful to Senators Patty Murray and Bernie Sanders as well as Representatives Katherine Clark and Rosa Delauro for their unwavering support and especially leading this legislation that would make critical investments in our nation’s child care system and prevent a crisis.”

“Last fall, more than 12,000 early educators and providers shared with NAEYC the widespread and critical impact that child care stabilization funding had in sustaining their programs and supporting their staff, as well as their anxieties about what would happen to their programs and the families they serve when that funding ran out. With stabilization funding officially expiring at the end of this month, and with many programs having already received their last round of support, we are already seeing their fears play out in real time—early educators are leaving to find other jobs as wages stagnate, programs are closing their doors for good, and families are facing increased challenges in accessing affordable, high-quality care,” **said Michelle Kang, NAEYC Chief Executive Officer.** “The Child Care Stabilization Act addresses these concerns head-on by extending funding for a program that we already know has worked to keep high-quality early educators open and equipped to serve young children and their families in communities across the country. We thank Senators Murray and Sanders, and Representatives Clark, DeLauro, Scott, Bonamici, Bowman, Gomez, Jacobs, and Sherrill for their leadership in introducing this critically needed legislation, and we look forward to working with them and all Members of Congress who care about the needs of young children and their families to ensure early educators have the supports they need to help families and communities thrive.”

“The \$52 billion in pandemic-era federal supplemental funding helped hundreds of thousands of child care educators, including family child care educators and small business owners, keep their doors open and serve working families with high-quality, flexible care in recent years,” **said Jessica Sager, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of All Our Kin.** “If these resources are allowed to expire without any sort of remedy, millions of children and their families around the country will lose access to care, as many of these small businesses will be forced to close. The Child Care Stabilization Act would ensure families, especially those from low-income backgrounds, have access to care for their families, and therefore the ability to stay in the workforce. Our leaders must step up and ensure children and families have access to the crucial high-quality early education opportunities that are key to their development and empower them for success later in life.”

“American families are already feeling the pinch of rising costs. Unfortunately, when federal funding for child care runs out this month, parents are going to be forced to pay more or cut back at work, hurting families and our economy,” **said Sondra Goldschein, Executive Director of the Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy.** “The Child Care Stabilization Act would stave off the worst impacts of the child care funding cliff and make sure working families have the tools and opportunities they need to build a good life. We’re thankful to those who have championed this critical legislation and urge Congress to send it to the president’s desk.”

“Now is not the time to play politics with our children’s futures. When the COVID childcare stabilization funds expire, this nation will go over a childcare cliff that will see 3.2 million children lose their child care and 70,000 child care centers closed,” **said Josephine Kalipeni, Executive Director of Family Values @ Work.** “We are at a pivotal moment in this nation’s history. Will Congress make permanent investments in child care to show working families they value them and their contributions? Or will they refuse to act, displaying a cowardice that will cost children, their families, and the economy? Care work is everyone’s work. We demand that all of our legislators promote care in policy and practice; that they demonstrate the power of care by prioritizing the needs of children and working families. The Child Care Stabilization Act is a strong first step to prevent the childcare cliff, but we also need the creation of a stronger social support network that ensures that all of the resources needed to take time to care—including paid leave with job security and progressive wage replacement, and affordable childcare—are available to all. We call on all political leaders to take action. This is an issue that impacts all families—no matter how they vote, where they work, or where they live.”

“YWCA’s around the country can attest to the disastrous consequences child care providers and the families they care for will face if Congress fails to invest the resources needed to avert the child care cliff and

stabilize funding for this essential sector of our economy and our communities,” **said Margaret Mitchell, CEO of YWCA USA.** “Child care providers are the backbone of our economy, and it is time we recognize their value by swiftly passing the Child Care Stabilization Act.”

“The Child Care Stabilization Act will ensure that the most vulnerable families across the country can continue to access critical child care services, without interruption,” **said Javier Martínez, Managing Director of National Policy, Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors.** “The risk of more than 3 million families losing child care overnight will reverberate throughout the economy and result in unspeakable hardship to American families, far and wide.”

“Access to high-quality childcare is a significant stressor for parents of young children across our country,” **said Melissa Merrick, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America.** “This is especially true for families with less access to resources. The Child Care Stabilization Act will ensure that childcare is available to more parents so they can stay employed without the worry of their children being nurtured and cared for.”